

REMARKS

The following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application, in response to the Office Action dated September 28, 2006.

The requirement for election of one of the alleged patentably distinct inventions identified by the Examiner as Invention I, corresponding to claims 1, 3, 5, 7-12, 15-18, 20, and 21, and Invention II, corresponding to claims 2, 6, 13, 14, and 19 as stated at pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, is traversed in that, as recognized by the Examiner "both inventions are classified in class 385, subclass 18." Applicants submit that there is no additional burden because the class/subclass will necessarily encompass both inventions.

In order to provide a complete response to the election requirement, applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Invention I, identified by the Examiner as claims 1, 3, 5, 7-12, 15-18, 20, and 21, drawn to an optical switch having a plurality of collimators and mirrors, in which the mirror and 1st mirror are disposed on the collimator side, while the 2nd mirror is disposed on an optical fiber side, classified in class 385, subclass 18.

Applicants have amended independent claims 2 and 6 to identify the location of the first and second mirrors. Specifically, the first mirror is located on the collimator side, while the second mirror is located on the optical fiber side.


Accordingly, claims 2 and 6 are now directed to the invention of Group I. Claims 13, 14, and 19, which depend from claims 2 and 6, are also believed to be directed to the invention of Group I.

For the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the election requirement and favorable action with respect to all claims pending in this application are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 500.43431X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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